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FLOOR DEBATE

April 11, 2002 LB 898, 1085

Governor's veto because we spent \$44 million. We sustained \$30 million in cuts. Now we cut \$1 million out of the value-added grant program which I can tell you, a direct cooperative that is probably going to be the first value-added cooperative formed since LB 1340 went into effect has received money from that. You can track the dollars that was spent on that to benefit rural Nebraska. You can track the dollars that are going to come into this state body in income tax and sales tax revenues because the farmers who are farming in my neck of the woods now have an opportunity to compete against the same people that Senator Dierks always tells us about, those who are trying to control the market. So they are going to have that opportunity. They are going to make money. Small investment, great return. We cut \$1 million out of that. I was willing to do that. I was also willing to cut out a lot of the other rural stuff. I was willing to stand here and be called all kinds of names by the people when I go back home and say, well, you didn't do anything to fight for us. I think this is where the fight is. I think the fight is on LB 1085. We have been told here this morning, we've been lectured continually, we have to do this or else X, Y, or Z. Well, X is the property tax increase, and the last time I checked, within the Governor's overrides, we still cut state aid to counties. We still cut state aid to cities. We still cut state aid to NRDs. And with LB 898, we still cut state aid to schools. If you vote for LB 1085, it's not like you're replacing that money with a sales tax or income tax. You are not doing that. You are adding to that. Now the other side of that is that we have elected officials, who I don't know if some people really think are wise enough to make the decisions, but I think that they know greater than we do the responsibility they have for taxation because they have to see the people that they represent on a daily basis. For some of us it's 400 miles to Lincoln. We can get away for awhile, but we'll go back, and we'll go back and I will look them in the eye and I will talk to them about LB 1085 and what's in this thing. And I'll say I'm sorry that I couldn't support higher sales tax, I couldn't support a higher base on sales tax, at this stage of the game I couldn't support a higher income tax, I couldn't support the cigarette tax, all wrapped into one idea and shoved down your throat. I just couldn't do that. So I rise in opposition of the override. I don't think